

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 097996 TOSEC 040109

NODIS
LONDON FOR SHULMAN AND GARRISON

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: UR

SUBJECT: SHEVCHENKO CASE: SECOND MEETING WITH TROYANOVSKIY

1. SHEVCHENKO MET FOR A SECOND TIME WITH TROYANOVSKIY, AT THE LATTER'S REQUEST, AT 7:30 P.M. ON APRIL 16. MEETING TOOK PLACE IN THE OFFICE OF ATTORNEY GROSS AND EUR/SOV DEPUTY DIRECTOR MCCALL WAS PRESENT. TROYANOVSKIY WAS ACCOMPANIED BY MYSHKOV AND BATAMIROV, BUT THEY WERE NOT IN THE MEETING AND DID NOT SEE SHEVCHENKO.

2. TROYANOVSKIY GAVE SHEVCHENKO AN ENVELOPE HE SAID CONTAINED LETTERS FROM SHEVCHENKO'S DISTRESSED FAMILY, AND
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URGED HIM TO TAKE "THE LAST CHANCE" TO RECONSIDER. HE SAID HE COULD ONLY THINK THAT SOMETHING HAD HAPPENED, SOME "ACCIDENT", WHICH LED TO SHEVCHENKO'S ACTION. HE COULD RETURN AND ALL WOULD BE AS IT WAS BEFORE, BUT THIS POSSIBILITY WOULD "RECEDE".

3. SHEVCHENKO ASKED IF THERE WAS A REPLY TO HIS LETTER TO

BREZHNEV AND TROYANOVSKIY SAID THERE WOULD BE NO REPLY AND "NO DEAL". SHEVCHENKO REPEATED HIS INTENTION NOT TO RETURN TO THE SOVIET UNION. GROSS THEN PRESSED FOR ASSURANCES THAT SHEVCHENKO'S FAMILY WOULD NOT BE PERSECUTED, THAT HIS WIFE COULD HAVE HIS PROPERTY IN THE SOVIET UNION, AND THAT HE

COULD SEND HER MONEY. TROYANOVSKIY REPLIED THAT THERE WOULD BE NO PERSECUTION NOR CONFISCATION, AND THAT MONEY COULD BE SENT, BUT THIS WAS A "FACT OF SOVIET LAW" AND NOT A MATTER FOR ASSURANCES OR BARGAINING. HE HAD NOTHING FURTHER TO SAY.

4. GROSS OBSERVED THAT ALLEGATIONS COMING FROM THE SOVIET MISSION THAT SHEVCHENKO WAS UNDER DURESS WERE PATENTLY FALSE AND UNWARRANTED. TROYANOVSKIY REPEATED THAT SHEVCHENKO WAS ACTING STRANGELY, AND DRYLY RETORTED THAT THE AMERICAN PRESS WAS DOING ITS SHARE OF SPECULATION. GROSS CONCLUDED THE MEETING BY SAYING THAT HE WOULD TELL THE PRESS THAT THIS SECOND MEETING HAD TAKEN PLACE, BUT WOULD REFER TO TROYANOVSKIY AGAIN ONLY AS A SENIOR SOVIET REPRESENTATIVE. TROYANOVSKIY SAID HE PREFERRED THAT HIS NAME NOT BE MENTIONED.

5. THE MEETING LASTED LESS THAN 15 MINUTES AND WAS DISPASSIONATE THROUGHOUT. TROYANOVSKIY DID NOT REITERATE THE EARLIER SOVIET REQUEST FOR A MEDICAL EXAMINATION OF SHEVSECRET

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CHENKO, AND GENERALLY BEHAVED AS IF HE WERE SIMPLY GOING THROUGH THE MOTIONS OF A COMMITMENT WITH NO EXPECTATIONS THAT SHEVCHENKO WOULD CHANGE HIS MIND OR BE DRAWN INTO FURTHER USEFUL DISCUSSION.

6. GROSS HAS REVERSED HIS EARLIER DECISION AND INTENDS TO ACT FOR SHEVCHENKO IN SETTLING MATTERS WITH THE UN. HE NOW PLANS TO HAVE SHEVCHENKO CALL MYERHOFER AND ASK FOR A MEETING BETWEEN GROSS AND A REPRESENTATIVE OF THE SECRETARY GENERAL. GROSS WOULD UNDERTAKE IN THAT MEETING TO WORK OUT ALL DETAILS OF A SETTLEMENT. GROSS WOULD THEN ASK FOR A MEETING BETWEEN SHEVCHENKO AND THE SECRETARY GENERAL, IN THE NATURE OF A FAREWELL CALL, ON OR AFTER APRIL 24. GROSS WOULD FOLLOW THIS WITH A PRESS CONFERENCE, WITHOUT SHEVCHENKO PRESENT, IN WHICH GROSS WOULD ATTEMPT TO PERSUADE THE PRESS THAT THE MATTER, AT LEAST AS A RUNNING STORY, IS AT AN END.

CHRISTOPHER

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